

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are presented for prosecution. Claims 1, 2, and 4 are currently amended. Claims 6-13 are new. No claims are cancelled.

Claim 4 was allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for allowance of this claim. Claim 4 is amended to remove an unnecessary verbiage that obscured the claim.

Claim 5 depends from claim 4, and is believed allowed based at least on the allowability of claim 4.

Claim 2 was objected for being dependent upon a rejected based claim, but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Applicants thank the Examiner, and have rewritten claim 2 in independent form including all the limitations of its base claim 1. Claim 2 is further amended to correct a typographical error. Specifically, "shafts" is changed to "shaft" to maintain a proper antecedent basis with the remainder of the claim.

Claim 1 is amended more clearly recite that the shaft is part of a rotor support member, and that the shaft supports the rotor. This substantially prevents the rotor support member and the rotor from slanting, which in turn make it possible to control the contact between the rotor and the vibrating plate to reduce the possibility of unsteady contacts, and thereby provide efficient drive. By contrast in the Iino reference, because the bearings (29) provided at the top and bottom are formed separately from the pressure transmitting shaft (28), there is the possibility that the pressure transmitting shaft 39 will lean toward the bearings (29) when the spring member (32) presses the bearings (29). As a result, conditions under which the rotor and vibrating plate contact each other will vary, which would likely lead to degradation in the drive efficiency of the motor.

Claim 3 is believed allowable based at least on the allowability of claim 1.

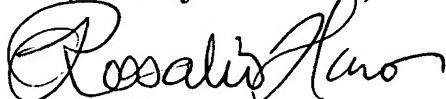
New claim 6 explains that the rotor support member is a rotating member, and provides for a configuration by which the rotor can move in a circular arc.

New claim 7 specifies that the rotor support member is a rotating member, and that the center of rotation of the rotating member is outside the outer circumference of the rotor. This structure makes it possible to cause the rotating shaft to move along a locus approximately in a straight line, such that even if the rotating shaft moves in one direction, any movement in a direction perpendicular to that one direction can be minimized.

New claims 8 and 9 depend from claim 1, new claims 10 and 11 depend from claim 2, and new claims 12 and 13 depend from claim 4. Claims 8-13 are believed allowable based at least on the allowability of their respective base claim.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,



Rosario Haro
Registration No. 42,633

Please address all correspondence to:

Epson Research and Development, Inc.
Intellectual Property Department
150 River Oaks Parkway, Suite 225
San Jose, CA 95134
Phone: (408) 952-6000
Facsimile: (408) 954-9058
Customer No. 20178

Date: March 1, 2005